



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

STAFF REPORT

February 28, 2013

REQUEST: City Council Bill #12-0173/ Baltimore City Landmark List - Old Douglass High School -1645 North Calhoun Street

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor A. Quashie

PETITIONER: Honorable Nick Mosby

OWNER: 1645 North Calhoun Holdings, LLC

SITE/ GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The Old Douglass High School building is a 19th century square, three-story, brick structure that features a central main entrance on North Calhoun Street. This building is currently an apartment building. Under the new ownership the plan are to renovate the existing apartment building.

General Area: Old Douglass High School is located at 1645 North Calhoun Street between Cumberland and Baker Streets and located in the residential Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of the Central planning district.

HISTORY

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

This action is consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, specifically:

PLAY Goal 1: Enhance the enjoyment, appreciation and stewardship of Baltimore's Historic and Cultural Resources.

LIVE Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods.

ANALYSIS

This is the second public hearing for the Baltimore City Landmark Designation for this building. The first hearing occurred on February 12, 2013 when the CHAP Commission reviewed and recommended approval of Landmark designation for Old Douglass High School. After the Planning Commission recommends approval of landmark designation, the request will be sent to City Council by the CHAP division of the Department of Planning to secure legislation for the landmark designation.

Baltimore City Landmark Designation- Old Douglass High School

This building was constructed in 1882 for the Maryland Industrial Training School for Girls, alternatively called the Female House of Refuge. In 1921 the Maryland Industrial School for Girls moved to Baltimore County and the building was purchased by Baltimore City to be the home of the “Colored High School.”

Originally named the “Colored Senior-Junior High School,” the institution was renamed “Frederick Douglass Senior High School” in 1923 after the famous abolitionist, author, lecturer, and intellectual who was born as a slave in Maryland and escaped to freedom from Baltimore. Frederick Douglass High School was the first high school established for African Americans in Baltimore City and the State of Maryland.

Old Douglass High School shaped alumni who have been locally, nationally, and internationally significant leaders in law, government, business, entertainment, and sports. Some of the Old Douglass alumni include:

- Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice;
- Parren J. Mitchell and Kweisi Mfume, U.S. Congressmen;
- Harry Cole, State Senator and Judge for the Maryland Court of Appeals;
- Verda Welcome, State Senator;
- Milton Allen, Baltimore State’s Attorney, Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge;
- Robert Watts, Municipal Court Judge, Baltimore City Supreme Court Judge;
- John Hargrove, Sr., U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland Judge;
- George Russell, attorney, former City Solicitor and Judge;
- Howard Peters “Pete” Rawlings, Maryland State Delegate;
- Clarence “Du” Burns, Baltimore Mayor;
- Agnes Welch, City Councilwoman

Old Douglass High School meets CHAP Landmark Criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of Baltimore history.

Staff has notified the following of this action: Capital T. Partners, Property Manager for Owner of Record; 1645 North Calhoun Holdings, LLC, 7th District City Councilman Nick Mosby, Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore City Historical Society, Baltimore National Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland, Sandtown Habitat Homeowners Association, Sandtown-Winchester Improvement Association, Western District Police-Community Relations Council, West Baltimore Coalition, Western Community Action Center, Clergy United to Transform Sandtown (CUTS), Sandtown-Winchester Community Building in Partnership, Sandtown-Winchester Square Homeowners Association, Western Human Services Center and the Woodyear Neighborhood Association.

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